

News & Notes

Sunday, July 8, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Steve Alberson Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Lettie Mae Hunt; Janie Hurt; Dot Ketchum; Tate King; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Rob Norman; Forrest and Cindy Phelps; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Nancy Griffin Wamack; Mike Westmoreland; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of July is Velveeta.

Special thanks to Jeff Roberson, Tyler Roberson, and Carrol Street for taking care of preaching and teaching last week.

Ashland events: Today: Elders' meeting at 4:00 PM; July 15-19: Evangelism Seminar with Don Underwood;

Area events: Beginning Today: Gospel meeting at the Tiplersville church of Christ; July 15-18: Vacation Bible School at the Chapman church of Christ;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Lesson from a Leper (2Kings 5:1-14)

PM: 2Corinthians: Godly Sorrow Produces Repentance (7)

For the Record (July 1, 2007):

Attendance: 70 Contribution: \$1638.00 Budget: \$1326.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25

Ashland, MS 38603-0025

www.ashlandcoc.org

acoc@ashlandcoc.org

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

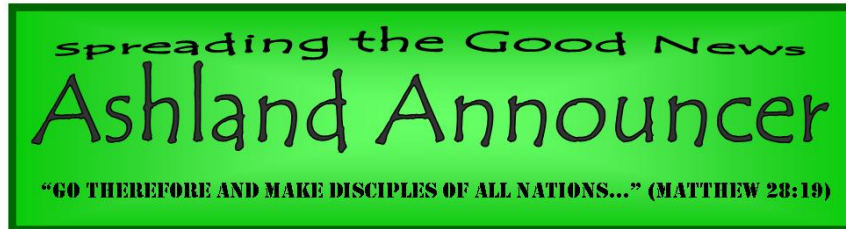
Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King

Carrol Street



How Can Evangelism Help a Congregation?

Roger D. Campbell

Jesus wants us to preach the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15). That includes teaching His saving message to those people in our own community. If the members of any local church will be actively involved in trying to teach the gospel to those who are lost, this will bring great benefits, both to those individual Christians who participate in this teaching and to the congregation as a whole. What are some of these blessings that will come to a local church that practices personal evangelism?

Being Busy in Personal Evangelism Will . . .

...Cause Each Member To Study More. We have to be ready to give an answer to those who ask questions (1Peter 3:15). The answer that we are to give them must come from God's word (1Peter 4:11). We have to search the scriptures (John 5:39) in order to be able to be the teachers that we ought to be (Hebrews 5:12). We cannot teach that which we do not know, so trying to teach others will force us to study more!

...Cause Each Active Member To Pray More. We will certainly feel the need for our Lord's help, because personal evangelism can present some pretty tough situations. Have you ever noticed how often the New Testament speaks about praying for the gospel to be preached? Jesus said that we are to pray to the Lord of harvests so He will send forth reapers (Matthew 9:37,38). We are also told to pray for open doors in evangelism (Colossians 4:3; 2Thessalonians 3:1,2) and for the courage of those who preach the word (Ephesians 6:19). So often we have felt frustrated by our own

inability to convince those whom we are trying to teach. Such makes us turn to the Lord in prayer and seek His guidance.

...Cause Those Members Who Are Teaching To Grow Closer To One Another. This is the natural result of working together to reach a goal. God wants men to be saved (1Timothy 2:4). So do you and I, and when we work together to help others learn the message of salvation, that is going to draw and bind us together. When we are busy teaching others, we will find ourselves praying together, we will ride or walk and talk together, we will cry and rejoice together. When all the members of a congregation are busy trying to teach the gospel to the lost, then they are giving their attention and energy to the task of helping others be saved. That does not leave much time for fussin' among themselves.

...Cause Souls To Be Saved And The Church To Grow. Yes, God's word will not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55:11). The church will grow when we sow the seed (Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 5:41-6:1; 6:7). Is this not what we are working for, not our personal glory, but the salvation of souls?! Remember the message of Mark 16:15, 16 — it begins with preaching the gospel and ends up with salvation!

...Cause Those Who Actually Teach To Have Personal Joy. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5,6). There is joy simply for a person in realizing that God wants me to teach others, and hey, that is what I am trying to do. Again, we rejoice with those who obey the gospel (Romans 12:15). There is surely no way to top the wonderful joy that one feels as a result of helping a person be saved! How would you feel if you saved a child's life by grabbing him off the railroad tracks at the last instant just before a speeding train passed, and as a result your picture was on the local TV station and in the newspaper? Why, any of us would feel good about themselves over something like that. Yet how much more precious than physical life is the eternal soul of every person, and we ought to rejoice in knowing that we can have a part in helping save a soul from eternal condemnation by teaching the gospel.

In so many ways evangelism brings great blessings to those congregations who practice it. May God help each of us to be more excited about teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost!

"IF"

IF a man can be saved outside the church of Christ, then why did Christ die for it (Acts 20:28)?

IF a man can be saved and not assemble with the church, then why are we commanded not to forsake the assembling of ourselves (Hebrews 10:25)?

IF one can be saved without faith, then why did the writer of the book of Hebrews teach that one must have faith in order to please God (Hebrews 11:6)?

IF one becomes a Christian by simply believing, then why was King Agrippa not a Christian (Acts 26:27,28)?

IF one can be saved without baptism, then why is it commanded (Acts 10:47,48)?

IF sprinkling and pouring constitute scriptural baptism, then why did the apostle Paul say there is ONE baptism, and that it is a BURIAL (Ephesians 4:4-6; Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:11,12)?

IF the kingdom of Christ has not come, and is yet to be built, then why did the inspired apostle Paul say he was in the kingdom (Colossians 1:13)?

IF men have authority to make laws and set them in the church, then why did Christ say that He has ALL authority (Matthew 28:18-20).

IF instrumental music is to be used in the worship, then why did Paul OMIT it and command us specifically to SING (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)?

IF there are many churches, then why does the Bible say there is only ONE (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18)?